

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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EASLEY ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENT BY BSH IN CRAVEN COUNTY

NEW BERN – Craven County and surrounding communities in Eastern North Carolina will benefit from a major expansion by the BSH Home Appliances Corporation that will create more than 1,400 new jobs through a \$150 million investment, Gov. Mike Easley announced today.

The company, the third largest manufacturer of household appliances in the world, will expand its Craven County operations over five years. The company already has invested \$50 million in New Bern and employs about 400 workers.

"Eastern North Carolina will realize a tremendous boost to its job market and tax base as a result of this expansion," Easley said. "Companies like BSH are choosing to locate and expand in North Carolina because they know of our strong commitment to education and economic development."

BSH Home Appliances Corporation is a subsidiary of Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances Group. The New Bern plant expansion will involve production of dishwashers, cooktops, hoods, ranges and washer-dryers at the Home Appliances Park being created by the company in New Bern. The average wages resulting from the expansion will range between \$11 and \$26 per hour plus benefits.

"Our company is pleased to continue its strong relationship with the state of North Carolina and the people of Craven County and the region," said Viktor Stehle, vice president of operations at the New Bern facility.

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